AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (currently amended) A method of entry distribution, comprising:

receiving requests by a chaining backend from an original client;

forwarding requests from the chaining backend to a remote server; and

returning results from the remote server to the original client;

wherein the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer ~~with~~

~~limited persistent storage capabilities~~.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the remote server is a plurality of remote servers.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein standard LDAP operations are supported.

4.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the entry distribution is hidden from the original client.

5.   (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chaining backend coexists with other backends.

6.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

implementing pass-through authentication by the chaining backend.

7.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

evaluating and enforcing access controls by the remote server that holds the results.

8.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

evaluating and enforcing a plurality of access controls by the chaining backend.

9.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a pool of connections to the remote server by the chaining backend.

10.   (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the pool of connections for a bind connection is a specific pool of connections dedicated for chaining of bind requests.

11.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

examining an operation state using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is
   abandoned.

12.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

configuring the multiplexer to return a referral that point to the remote server holding the
   results.

13.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

forwarding a search size limit parameter to the remote server.

14.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

updating a time limit parameter to account for additional processing delay introduced by
   the multiplexer; and

forwarding the updated time limit parameter to the remote server.

15.   (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

implementing pass-through authentication by the chaining backend;

evaluating and enforcing access controls by the remote server that holds the results;

evaluating and enforcing a plurality of access controls by the chaining backend;

maintaining a pool of connections to the remote server by the chaining backend;

examining an operation state using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is
   abandoned;

configuring the multiplexer to return a referral pointing to the remote server holding the
   results;

forwarding a search size limit parameter to the remote server;

updating a time limit parameter to account for additional processing delay introduced by
   the multiplexer; and

forwarding the updated time limit parameter to the remote server.

16.   (currently amended) A directory server allowing entry distribution, comprising:

a chaining backend receiving a request from an original client, wherein the chaining
   backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer with limited
   persistent storage capabilities; and

a remote server receiving the request from the chaining backend;

wherein, a result is returned to the original client from the remote server.

17.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein the remote server is a single remote server.

18.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein standard LDAP operations are supported.

19.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein the entry distribution is hidden from the original client.

20.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein the chaining backend coexists with other backends.

21.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a pass-through authentication implemented by the chaining backend.

22.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the remote server that holds the results.

23.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the chaining backend.

24.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a pool of connections to the remote server maintained by the chaining backend.

25.   (original) The directory server of claim 24, wherein the pool of connections for a bind connection is a specific pool of connections dedicated for chaining of bind requests.

26.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

an operation state examined using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is abandoned.

27.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

the multiplexer configured to return a referral pointing to the remote server holding the results.

28.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a search size limit parameter forwarded to the remote server.

29.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a time limit parameter updated to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and

an updated time limit parameter forwarded to the remote server.

30.   (original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:

a pass-through authentication implemented by the chaining backend;

a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the remote server that holds the results;

a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the chaining backend;

a pool of connections to the remote server maintained by the chaining backend;

an operation state examined using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is abandoned;

the multiplexer configured to return a referral pointing to the remote server holding the results;

a search size limit parameter forwarded to the remote server;

a time limit parameter updated to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and

an updated time limit parameter forwarded to the remote server.

31.   (original) A directory server allowing entry distribution, comprising:

means for supporting a plurality of backends;

means for supporting requests spanning over the plurality of backends;

means for supporting pluggable distribution logic; and

means for chaining the plurality of backends.

32.   (currently amended) A system for entry distribution, comprising:

means for receiving requests by a chaining backend from an original client;

means for forwarding requests from the chaining backend to a remote server; and

means for returning results from the remote server to the original client;

wherein the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer ~~with~~

~~limited persistent storage capabilities~~.